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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 PM-05 IO-13
PRS-01 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JR
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH
----------047316 182014Z /47
O 181942Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AYALEW CALLED IN

REF: STATE 11072

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AFRICAN AFFAIRS HARROP
CALLED IN AMBASSADOR AYALEW JAN. 16 TO TAKE EXCEPTION
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TO FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON AMERICAN POLICY IN THE
HORN. HARROP, NOTING HE WANTED TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT
MADE POINTS REFTEL. HE THEN STATED WE HOPED A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT TO THE OGADEN CONFLICT COULD BE FOUND. HE
SAID WE WERE ENCOURAGED THAT SIAD BARRE RECENTLY STATED
THAT HE WOULD TALK WITH THE ETHIOPIANS. HE CONCLUDED THAT
WE WANT TO KEEP OUR HISTORICAL TIES WITH ETHIOPIA AND

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REITERATED THAT WE WERE NOT GIVING ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. WE WERE THUS QUITE SURPRISED AT HARSHNESS OF MOFA STATEMENT.

2. AYALEW SAID HARSHNESS WAS A MATTER OF INTERPRETATION. ETHIOPIA SAW CARTER'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING ON HEELS OF PRESS SPECULATION, SHAH'S STATEMENT, AS HARSH. HE ASKED WHY PRESIDENT--SINCE HE WAS SPEAKING OUT HIMSELF ON HORN -- DID NOT SPEAK OUT LOUDLY ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF

ETHIOPIA AND CONDEMN SOMALIA AS AN AGGRESSOR AND VIOLATOR OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ALL ETHIOPIA SEES IN US PRESS, HE NOTED, WAS CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, SOVIET AIRLIFT, ETC. TALK OF NEGOTIATIONS IS FINE BUT THEY WILL OCCUR ONLY AFTER THE SOMALI AGGRESSOR IS MOVED OUT OF ETHIOPIA. SO, AYALEW SUMMED UP, PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AS IT WAS WITHOUT MENTION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OR AGGRESSION AND WITH STRONG HINT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PLACE WAS HARSH TO ETHIOPIANS EARS. AS LONG AS WE DO NOT CONDEMN AGGRESSOR, HE ADDED, WE WILL BE PERCEIVED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO SOMALIA.

3. AMBASSADOR AYALEW SAID OUR CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS MISPLACED AS USSR IS JUST TRYING TO GIVE ETHIOPIA ARMS PARITY WITH SOMALIA. THIS THE US HAD FAILED TO DO. SOVIET UNION WAS PROVIDING WHEREWITHAL CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DEFEND ETHIOPIA'S EXISTENCE AS NATION.

4. HARROP NOTED HISTORICALPROBLEMOF SOMALI ETHNICS IN OGADEN AND EPMG STATEMENTSON AUTONOMY. HE ASKED IF THIS COULD NOT BE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING PEACE AND FINDING PEACEFUL WAY CONVINCE SOMALIS TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA. AYALEW REPEATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS WHILE SOMALIS ARE IN OGADEN. HE ACCUSED US OF IGNORING, DOWN-PLAYING OR NOT EVEN BELIEVING IN HIGHER PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ETHNIC PROBLEMS EXIST ALL OVER AFRICA. LET'S HONOR PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AYALEW ARGUED, THEN MOVE ON TO THE QUESTION OF SOMALI ETHNICS. HARROP NOTED SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN BORDER NOT DEFINED. AYALEW SAID IT WAS LEGALLY DEFINED BUT NOT DEMARCATED. THIS CAUSED NO PROBLEM ELSEWHERE WHERE SIMILAR SITUATIONS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT TAKE OGADEN CONFLICT TO UN FOR FEAR THAT ORGANIZATION MIGHT TRY TO ARRANGE A CEASE-FIRE INSIDE ETHIOPIA. HE DID NOT FEEL ANY RESOLUTION--FRIENDLY OR NOT--COULD RESOLVE PROBLEM. HE

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SAID IT WAS NOW POWER ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE WHICH
WOULD DETERMINE OUTCOME.

6. HARROP CONCLUDED MEETING BY REASSURING AMBASSADOR THAT
STATEMENTS WE MAKE WERE NOT AIMED AT ETHIOPIA, ITS
REVOLUTION, NOR ITS RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF. WE WERE
UPSET WITH THE RUSSIAN ROLE OF ARMING ONE SIDE, THEN
THE OTHER.
7. THIS CABLE DRAFTED 1/16. REGRET DELAY IN TRANSMISSION.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE013702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KPGARLAND:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0588
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780149/aaaaboxl.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: adf93be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 11072
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3752745
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR AYALEW CALLED IN
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ET, SO, US, (AYALEW)
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/adf93be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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